

of those young people by the time twelve, midnight hits are under the influence of alcohol. Why? It is my opinion that it is because of the drinking age being at nineteen. You know when I was attending Peru State College, at the time in the middle sixties, there were a number of--of course at that time the drinking age in the State of Nebraska was twenty one, and many of my colleagues would drive to Kansas some forty miles away. You know that forty miles was no deterrent. They didn't care. They would get there in half an hour, thirty, thirty-five minutes, forty minutes, and they had a good time the rest of the night and they would come back dead drunk. Senator Lewis has mentioned, well the South Omaha Bridge, the Bellevue Bridge, the Council Bluffs Bridge will become heavy with traffic from people, from our young people coming from Omaha. I don't know that that is true. I think our young people will respect the law if the Legislature so decides to do it. You know, ladies and gentlemen, this afternoon I had a chance to go to the minimum security of the Nebraska Penal Complex. I have never been there before and a very interesting education indeed it was.

SPEAKER MARVEL: Excuse me, Senator Venditte, I hate to interrupt you but will you please keep to the issue that is simply bringing the bill out of the committee.

SENATOR VENDITTE: Okay, and just to elaborate on that experience, why, why are those young people, sixteen, eighteen, nineteen year olds there? I will bet that 60% of those people are there because drugs are as easy as snapping your fingers to get in our society, be it heroin, marijuana, alcohol of any kind. You can get it and why? Well it is your fault, Senator Kremer. It is your fault, Senator Hefner and it is my fault for making these drugs so available today in our society. You mean to tell me we can't curb the kinds of social problems, the social ills that we have in this state, in this country? We are spending millions, billions of dollars keeping hard drugs from coming into our country and we haven't been able to make a dent and why? Why can't we? And yet we look at that minimum security over there and look at those sound healthy bodies, sound healthy minds just wasting away, day after day after day.

SPEAKER MARVEL: One minute.

SENATOR VENDITTE: And I think you're telling me...okay. Mr. President, members of the Legislature, I think it is rather obvious that all of what we are doing is almost an effort in futility if Mom and Dad don't want to take the